

South Dakota Music Teachers Association
an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association

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**Newsletters' Deadlines
For Submissions Are:
May 15 - Spring Newsletter
September 15 - Fall Newsletter
January 15 - Winter Newsletter**



President's Message

It is hard to believe summertime is here again! For most music teachers, teaching takes a different direction in the summer. Some teachers like to shift the emphasis into more jazz or pop, some do more duets or ensembles, and some step up the pressure so students can prepare for competitions.

Summer can be a time for self-renewal and reflection; a time to practice music; or simply a time to catch up with friends and family. For SDMTA members, it can be a time to catch up on reading our American Music Teacher journals. In the April/May AMT, there is an article by Barbara Maris, "What has MTNA Membership meant to Me?" In this thoughtful and very personal article, Barbara talks about MTNA benefits, and mentions first of all that "MTNA provides a voice nationally and internationally." In this time of economic recession, I am sure some people are wondering if they can afford MTNA dues another year. Today it is more important than ever for music teachers to band together on a state and national level. At a time when our society is becoming more and more sports-oriented; when budget cuts are eliminating music programs from schools; and when some parents are viewing music lessons as unnecessary, it is critical that we all remain part of a larger organization with a strong voice. There are many things we can do as individuals to foster and advocate the cause of music education, but being a part of a larger organization will definitely enhance and broaden our influence.

The article also suggests that MTNA membership could be viewed as being akin to "visiting a huge buffet table laden with delicious foods." I believe SDMTA can also be seen as a rich buffet, but on a smaller scale and tailored more specifically to our own needs. The local chapters do a phenomenal job of bringing people together for sharing ideas, and promoting workshops and performance opportunities for students. Our South Dakota state conference is an unusual event, unlike any in the nation, because we combine SDMTA and MTNA competitions with conference activities in the same 3-day period. This year the conference is November 5-7, at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. This will be a great opportunity for us all to discuss some of the most important issues facing us today, and receive support and appreciation for our teaching efforts. This year, let your passion for music and for teaching music spill over into a passion for becoming actively involved in SDMTA. Simply ask me what needs to be done! Volunteer to monitor competitions, write articles for your local paper, suggest workshop topics, and, most importantly, come to the conference so you can meet other people who share your interests and concerns. We can make a difference as an organization, but we will make a bigger difference and have a stronger voice if more members become actively involved and make their presence known at the 2009 conference. See you there!

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS, UPDATES & CORRECTIONS TO NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Marcela Faflak, faflakm@northern.edu 605-226-3421

Contents

Local Associations News	2
Newsletter Editor's Info	2
“Meet a Member”	3
SDMTA Website	3
Competition Update	3
SDMTA Commissioned Composition	3
2009 SDMTA Conference Preview	4
State Foundation Report	5
State Certification Report	5
SD Summer Music Camps	6-7
An Invitation to IMTA Conference	7
2008 SDMTA Conference Review	8
The Piano Grand	8
Dakota Sky International Festival	8

ABERDEEN: Aberdeen Chapter is excited to announce the Saturday, August 29th Teacher Workshop With Melody Bober! 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Location and cost to be announced. Last August we sponsored a Master Class and Teacher Workshop with Dr. Paul Wirth, from St. Cloud, MN. We also had monthly meetings with programs including roundtable discussions concerning studio policies, memorization tips, ensemble playing, a tax presentation by a local accounting firm, a presentation on Chopin's Romances: The Muses who inspired the Master and the History of the Piano. Meetings are usually held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1620 Milwaukee Ave NE on the 2nd Saturday of each month.
Kay Wieland, President

BLACK HILLS: We welcomed new members Tony Thomas and Mila Gilleland into BHAMTA this fall. Tony and Connie Thomas have opened The Piano Gallery in Rapid City, which includes Tuscany Hall, which they have freely made available to BHAMTA for events. In February they had Elton John's red piano available for teachers and students. Jim McInness celebrated his studio's move to the Piano Gallery by giving a recital which also included some selections performed by students at Tuscany Hall on Mar. 8. Mila Gilleland also performed a recital there Apr. 11. The Northern Hills Recital was held at BHSU on Feb. 26 with 25 students participating. Southern Hills Recitals were also held the last week in February with 52 students participating. The Piano Duet Extravaganza was held at the Rapid City Rushmore Mall on February 7th. There were 30 entries and 6 teachers participating. Cora Fried did a great job conducting as 6 different groups performed 3 pieces each on 6 digital pianos provided by Matt Batchelder's Plummer Piano. The BHAMTA March Dinner Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in

Spearfish on March 26, and despite the snowy conditions, 10 people attended, shared ideas about growth of the organization, and enjoyed the presentation given by Priscilla Romkema, Dean of Business and Technology at BHSU who is also an active musician. BHAMTA held its annual Spring Festival at BHSU on April 18. Our meetings, which are held bi-monthly, have been lively and engaging this year, with our topics including: teaching students with disabilities, stepping up the standards for scales, and parent- teacher conferences.

Rita Hicks, President

BROOKINGS – Brookings chapter finished the year with a lunch meeting at 'Dine 1879' on May 15th at noon. New officers elected at this meeting were: Tammy Knudtson – President, Becky Schoeneman – Vice-President, Joan Riesen – Secretary, John Walker – Treasurer. This last year our organization held a Piano Jam, organized by Lee Ann Meyer, using digital pianos supplied by Schmitt Music. The Piano Jam concert helped kick off the SDMTA Convention held in Brookings this year. As always, volunteers from around the state helped to make this year's convention run smoothly, from workshops to competitions. Our yearly events included our annual Piano Festival (which was not snowed out this year) and playing at the Festival of Lights at the Community Cultural Center over the holidays. SDSU started a collegiate chapter of MTNA this year, and BMTA has been generous in supporting the students. College members have been helping with the free piano classes held at SDSU that were offered to deserving students in the community.

Mary Walker, Past President

HURON: We were very happy that Dr. John Walker chose to play a Beethoven Sonata concert in Huron. Refreshments were served after the recital by our members. We sponsored an All Boy's Recital at the Fine Arts Auditorium on November 2. Two recitals were presented with a total of 48 boys playing piano solos, duets, and trios and guitar and violin solos. In December our students provided music during the viewing of the Christmas Trees. Our programs this year were on lesson plans and goals, teaching the basics, improvising, memorizing and the art of performing. We are delighted to have two new members, Beth Neitzert and Joy Erdman.

Brenda Ruedebusch, President

SIoux FALLS: Our last local meeting was held in April. Arlene Krueger gave us some insights on an Amanda Vick Lethco masterclass that we have on CD. It was very informative. On March 1 we had 48 boys participate in an All-Boy Recital. The annual Sioux Falls Festival was held on March 14 with over 440 students participating. Our officers for 2009-2010 are Sue Winters, President; Donna Schwartz, Vice-President; Mabel Tiezen, Secretary; and Chistina Harbaugh, Treasurer. We look forward to the upcoming conference that will be held in Sioux Falls this fall.

Sue Winters, President

“Meet a Member”

Name: Trish Hanson, NCTM

Home: Rapid City, SD

Member SDMTA since: 1975

Born: Rapid City, SD

Raised: Rapid City, SD and lived in New York, The Quad Cities, Denver

Education: USD in Vermillion: BS - Zoology, minors - music and chemistry; SD Teacher Certification K-12 in vocal & instrumental music, biology and The Academically Gifted; Suzuki Piano certification; SD Project WILD Facilitator

Current jobs: Vocal music for Children’s House Montessori; Private Studio teaching piano and strings; BH Chamber Music Program Committee, BH Symphony League Member, A Cappella group at First Methodist Church

Family: Son David (chemistry & computer at Waste Water Treatment Plant, his wife Mandy (Martha Stewart) and grandkids Tatum & Liam (violin and soccer players) in RC and son Dan in Bozeman (Project Construction Manager and boys' soccer coach)

Favorite Composers: Gershwin, J. S. Bach

Favorite Pianists: Mary Ann McPartland, Olga Kern

Most Influential Musicians/Teachers: Hosi Main - HS orchestra, Ray DeVilbiss - USD Band, Ms. Whitbeck – Junior HS piano teacher

Hobbies/Activities: Golf, duplicate bridge, mountain biking, hiking & backpacking the Big Horns, fly fishing, dangerous hunting and travel adventures

Why I like SDMTA: Great people and opportunities for continuing education

SDMTA WEBSITE

On the SDMTA.org website you will find the new 2009 Handbook and Competition Application form. Download both to your computer. Using Adobe Reader open the application form and fill in the blanks . When finished, save the file with a new name for your records and print it out. Open the original blank application file for every new entry. You may also use the Word file on the website and type into that.

Send in forms with checks through regular mail as before.

John Walker, Webmaster

COMPETITION UPDATES

Included in this edition of our SDMTA newsletter is the updated 2009 Handbook and the new application form. Please take note of the new chairs: Colleen Tucker has agreed to take over as composition chair for both the SDMTA and MTNA and Nancy Roberts is our new MTNA Collegiate Chair, replacing Janeen Larsen who is our new state president. One new category has been added--an elementary string category for ages 10-11. Since so many string players begin lessons at an early age, it was felt that there could be young string players ready to perform in a competition. Ilene Sharkey will add this to her list of instrumental categories which she is chairing.

We did not have any students in the new Special Needs category last year, but this is still available for this coming year, so considering entering any students that might fit in this new category. If you are entering students in any of the competitions in November, please read the updated Competition Handbook carefully in order to familiarize yourself with the rules. Please feel free to contact myself or your respective chair if you have any questions or concerns about the competitions.

Marilyn Schempp, State Competition Chair

Hegg Receives Commission for Composition

Jeremy Hegg, a rising young South Dakota composer, has been awarded the SDMTA Composition Commission for 2009. Hegg will be composing a piano duet as requested by the composition committee. This new work will fall in the level of difficulty of the Bach inventions, or slightly more difficult Clementi sonatinas. Hegg’s work will be premiered at the SDMTA conference in 2009. The oldest son of two lifelong music educators, Hegg was born in Dell Rapids, South Dakota and received his formal music training at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Among his numerous and wide-ranging musical activities include band and orchestral premieres in Arizona, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota, and the reception of the Mayor’s Award for the Performing Arts. He currently resides in Sioux Falls.

Paul Kolar, Commissioned Composition Chair

55TH ANNUAL SOUTH DAKOTA MUSIC TEACHERS'S ASSOCIATION STATE CONFERENCE

The 55th Annual South Dakota Music Teacher's Association State Conference will be held at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on November 5-7, 2009. The conference will include MTNA and SDMTA competitions, lectures, master classes, and concerts.

Opening the conference on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Kresge Recital Hall, will be the Augustana College Faculty String Quartet. *In a groundbreaking collaboration, Augustana College and the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO) have partnered to support the Augustana String Quartet, the only professional string quartet in residence at a college in the region. The members of the quartet serve as associate principals in their respective sections in the symphony and as adjunct teaching faculty for Augustana College.*

The Augustana String Quartet performs up to 130 different outreach programs per year with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and the Augustana Orchestra, as well as for special engagements in schools and college and community functions. Recently invited to perform as the guest chamber music ensemble at the 2009 Iowa International Piano Competition, the quartet has performed and given master classes in Sioux Falls, Brookings (SD), Forrest Lake (MN), Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, and Grand Island (NE).

Based upon the overwhelming positive response last year, we are again designating an entire day for professional development. The Friday of the convention will be devoted to a variety of workshops, without the distraction of concurrent competitions. We will have an exciting line up of clinicians and a variety of topics that will be of interest to everyone, based upon input from our membership.

We will again have the IMTF luncheon on Friday, when each teacher will have the opportunity to contribute new ideas, report successful teaching strategies they used this year, or recommend good books or other music media. Plan in advance to set aside this special day for your personal growth.

On Friday evening at 8 p.m. the conference guest artist, Pierce Emata, will be featured in a solo recital in



Kresge Recital Hall. *Presently residing in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he has a private teaching studio, Pierce Kagari Emata has presented his popular Concerts & Conversation series throughout the western and Midwestern U.S., in addition to orchestral appearances. He received his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Piano at Indiana University, coaching with notable concert artists such as Alfonso Montecino, John Ogdon, and Gyorgy Sebok. In addition he has coached with John Simms and Istvan Nadas. He appeared twice in the "Sunday Afternoon at Cantigny" series and the nationally broadcast Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts, both in Chicago. His performances have also been broadcast over NPR affiliate stations in Washington, Nevada Public Radio, and South Dakota Public Radio.*

Featured in the 2006 Musical America International Directory of the Performing Arts, Mr. Emata is also active as a teacher, adjudicator, and has served as an advisory panelist for the Indiana Arts Commission. He recently served on the jury for the Music Teachers National Association's Southwest Division piano competition. He is also featured as a subject matter expert presenting seminars dealing with Internet technology, e-commerce, and the performing arts.

While subject to change, the preliminary schedule for all competitions is given below:

Thursday, November 5

MTNA Young Artist Piano
MTNA Baldwin Piano
MTNA Strings
SDMTA Collegiate Piano
SDMTA Collegiate Voice
SDMTA Strings

Friday, November 6

MTNA Young Artist Brass
MTNA Young Artist Woodwind
MTNA Senior Piano
MTNA Senior Voice
MTNA Chamber Music
SDMTA Brass
SDMTA Woodwind

Saturday, November 7

MTNA Young Artist Voice
SDMTA Elementary Piano
SDMTA Junior Piano
SDMTA Senior Piano
SDMTA Senior Voice
SDMTA Piano Duets

STATE FOUNDATION REPORT

South Dakota's newest MTNA Foundation Fellow is Ilene Sharkey of Rapid City. Ilene was honored at the Foundation Gala at the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta this March. We greatly enjoyed the banquet setting in the beautiful Georgia Aquarium and as we dined we were even able to watch fish swim about through the large windows of the tanks that lined the wall of the banquet hall. SDMTA members sat together at one table and applauded heartily as Ilene's name was called and she approached the stage to receive recognition. Ilene has been a dedicated supporter of MTNA and SDMTA and has held offices in the organization. We congratulate Ilene and thank everyone who contributed to the Fellow Fund and made this year's award possible.

The Fellow Fund helps to support the MTNA Foundation, with money from contributions going into unfunded competitions, grants, and aid for students. Designating a Fellow is easy. All it takes is a contribution of \$1,000 or more, along with a completed MTNA Fellow Information Form to MTNA. The funds may come from one individual's donation or from a group of persons wishing to confer this special honor upon a colleague. Please note that the Fellow distinction may not be established in the contributor's own name. This is an honor bestowed by peers.

Each year new MTNA Fellows are recognized at the MTNA national conference. Fellows receive a complimentary ticket to the Foundation Fund Gala, an attractive MTNA Fellow certificate and pin. Also, new Fellows are prominently recognized in American Music Teacher magazine, and their names will appear on a plaque located at the MTNA national headquarters. A press release will be sent to media outlets selected by the Fellow.

We are thinking about South Dakota's next nomination for an MTNA Foundation Fellow. Please let me or anyone on the Board know if there is someone you would like to nominate for this prestigious award.

Another important item was inadvertently left out of the last Foundation report. During our state conference in Brookings last November, the Brookings Music Teachers Association

coordinated a fundraising event for the SDMTA Foundation, with direct support from Schmitt Music of Sioux Falls. Store owner Scott Schoppert donated an electronic keyboard which was raffled off during the conference. 100% of the proceeds were then donated to the Foundation, which amounted to slightly over \$1,000. Schmitt Music also provided twelve keyboards for the opening recital featuring Brookings students playing multiple keyboards. We're grateful to Schmitt Music and the Brookings Music Teachers Association for making this fund-raising event possible.
Susanne Skyrn, SDMTA Foundation Chair

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Greetings Everyone,

Remember to renew your MTNA membership by July 1st. Those of you who need to send in for re-certification also do this by 7/1.

Remember being part of the state and National Organization offers you access to top notch resources and most importantly an opportunity to network with you colleagues at the local, state and national levels.

I received a certification report from West Central Division Certification Commissioner, Dr. Suzanne Torkelson. South Dakota is ranked 13th in the nation. We have 159 paid members, only 29 of these members are certified.

National has streamlined certification with a new plan: the intent is to provide the simplest method of verifying teaching, but still maintaining high quality while removing barriers in the hopes that more teachers will take steps necessary to become NCTM. New member numbers as well as certified members numbers are lower this year.

Carol Zephier and I would be more than happy to bring our certification workshop, that we did at the State Conference, to your local meeting, (this material includes state certification as well as national certification). This would be at no cost to your local, due to the fact that we have resources available to pay travel expenses. Let's work together to get more people certified, state as well as national. Give me a call or email me.

Marie Schlosser, State Certification Chair
mhschlos@nvc.net or phone 605-329-2051

SOUTH DAKOTA SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS

Name of camp/activity: 58th Annual Upper Midwest Junior-Senior High School Summer Music Camp

Brief description of activities: Enjoy a week of musical fun. Students are able to participate in choir, band, orchestra, jazz band, and show choir. In addition to the ensembles, campers have the opportunity to take private lessons with members of the USD faculty, participate in interesting classes and explore a wide range of musical experiences. A special piano camp is also available offering lessons, activities and performances focusing on the fabulous world of piano: solo, duet, chamber music, historical keyboards, literature, technique, performance and more.

Age of students: Grades 6-12 **Place:** University of South Dakota **Dates:** July 12–17, 2009

Cost: \$390 (\$240 for commuters). Scholarships available.

Contact info: Dr. David Holdhusen, Upper Midwest Summer Music Camp, The University of South Dakota Department of Music, 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390, 605-677-5721 • david.holdhusen@usd.edu

Brochure: <http://www.usd.edu/cfa/Music/MusicCamp/MusicCamp2009.pdf>

Registration: <http://www.usd.edu/cfa/Music/MusicCamp/Registration2009.pdf>

Name of camp/activity: Augustana Summer Music Camp

Brief description of activities: A six day resident camp for students who are interested in vocal music, or instrumental music. Band, orchestra, choir, and show choir along with chamber ensembles, piano ensemble, and private lessons.

Age of students: Grades 8-12 **Place:** Augustana College **Dates:** June 14-19, 2009

Cost: \$395.00 full time or \$295.00 commuter (Scholarships by taped audition.)

Contact info: Dr. Bruce Amman at 605-274-5451 or bruce.ammann@augie.edu

Name of camp/activity: SDAGO Pipe Organ Encounter Camp

Brief description of activities: We have a wonderful lineup of guest teachers/recitalists: Douglas Cleveland from Seattle, Washington and Christopher Marks from the University of Nebraska will both present recitals, John Schwandt from the University of Oklahoma will accompany a silent movie, and David Cherwien from Minneapolis will lead a Hymn Festival. Camp includes daily lessons, classes on different topics relating to the organ, organ crawls, and travel to the National Music Museum in Vermillion. No previous organ experience is required. Registration is limited - sign up early.

Age of students: Ages 13-18 **Place:** Augustana College **Dates:** July 12-17

Cost: \$400, \$350 early bird fee before May 15

Contact info: Marilyn Schempp 605-332-0038 or mmschempp@sio.midco.net

Name of camp/activity: All-State Music Camp (including **Piano Camp**)

Brief description of activities: All-State Music Camp (including Piano Camp) will be held June 7-12 at South Dakota State University. Spend a week of musical fun and learning. Music students in 7th grade or above are encouraged to register for this exciting week of making music, making friends, and a wide variety of musical learning experiences. Students may participate in band, choir, jazz, piano camp, or any combination. Classes include participation in the various ensembles, basic jazz and blues piano, choral techniques, conducting, sightreading, audition/contest preparation, men's choir, women's choir, theory/composition, computer technology, beginning band, guitar, and improvisation. Visit www3.sdstate.edu [keyword: ASMC] and register online.

Age of students: grades 7-12 **Place:** SDSU **Dates:** June 7-12

Cost: with Room and Board \$350, without \$200

Contact info: www3.sdstate.edu [keywords: all state music camp]

Name of camp/activity: NSU All-Star Marching Camp

Brief description of activities: Marching Fundamentals, Leadership, Drum Major, Colorguard

Age of students: 12-18 **Place:** Sioux Falls School for the Deaf **Dates:** July 8-10, 2009

Cost: \$125

Contact info: Dr. Boyd Perkins, Director of Bands Northern State University, 605-626-2501, boyd.perkins@northern.edu

Name of camp/activity: Rushmore National Music Camp

Brief description of activities: Our camp motto, "Making Music, Making Friends" describes Rushmore National Music Camp perfectly. Faculty members from across the United States help provide outstanding opportunities in instrumental and vocal ensembles. Lessons and classes are available in all wind and percussion instruments, voice, and guitar.

Age of students: 6-12

Place: Aberdeen, SD on NSU campus (Junior High Camp); Keystone, SD Camp Judson (Senior High Camp)

Dates: Junior High Camp: August 2-7, Senior High Camp: August 9-15

Cost: Grades 6-9 \$319 full camp/ \$269 day-campers only, grades 9-12 \$395

Contact info: Dr. Alan D. LaFave, NSU School of Fine Arts, (605) 626-2497, lafavea@northern.edu OR Peggy Letcher, Camp Registrar, (605) 229-5714, RushmoreMusicCamp@gmail.com

Name of camp/activity: Collaborative Piano Program at Camp Opera

Brief description of activities: Camp Opera, led by internationally renowned vocal artist Scott Piper, provides artist development for singers at the late high school and collegiate levels. Pianists in the Collaborative Piano Program work with singers in the Vocal program under the guidance of collaborative artist and teacher, Susan Keith Gray. The program is for pianists who are at early advanced through young professional levels. Pianists who have no significant collaborative experience, who have developing expertise or who have significant ability and/or experience in the collaborative arts may participate. The program nurtures the joy of collaborative performance through workshops, master classes, lessons, pairing with singers and appropriate performance opportunities.

Age of students: 14 years and higher

Place: United Church of Christ-Congregational, Vermillion; First Congregational Church, Sioux Falls

Dates: V: 1, 2 or 3-week sessions 6/ 9 – 29; 6/1 – 29: 4-week Apprentice Program. SF: 7/6 – 10: 1-week Intensive

Cost: \$150-\$1000, Scholarships available.

Contact info: www.campopera.com. Deadline extended to June 1. For additional information, please contact Dr. Susan Keith Gray at skgray@usd.edu or SusanKeith.Gray@gmail.com or leave a message at 605-624-9722.

AN INVITATION TO ALL SDMTA MEMBERS

The Morningside College Music Department and Siouxland IMTA extend a cordial invitation to all SDMTA members to attend the Iowa Music Teachers Association 2009 state conference to be held Sunday, June 7 through Tuesday, June 9 on the Morningside College campus in Sioux City, Iowa. It is not often that the Iowa conference is held in the western part of the state and we will be honored to have you as our guests. Our goal is to present a conference that helps us better appreciate our musical heritage, challenges our imagination as we look to the future, and provides sessions that offer practical advice that will improve our day to day effectiveness as teachers. It will also be a chance to gather with good friends and colleagues in a beautiful setting to share our passion for music. We are very excited about the guests and sessions that are planned.

On the first evening of the conference, participants will have the rare opportunity to enjoy a private tour of the nearby National Music Museum in Vermillion, South Dakota. The museum houses one of the finest and most extensive instrument collections in the world. Those in attendance will be able to see and hear a number of the amazing keyboards in the collection as well as participate in a hands-on demonstration of the museum's Kyai Rengga Manis Everist Gamelan (see links below).

We are thrilled that our guests for the conference include pianist and Grammy Award nominated recording artist Andrew Russo. Mr. Russo's incendiary performances have earned him critical acclaim on four continents. He will perform the conference recital on Monday, June 8 and will also present a session entitled "Putting a Friendly Face on Contemporary Music: A Painless Introduction to Music Composed During the Lifetime of Your Pre-college Students" (see link below). Also featured will be MTNA President Dr. Gail Berenson who will speak about "Discoveries That Have Transformed Piano Instruction in the 21st Century" and "Strategies for Coping with Performance Anxiety" (see link below). We are also delighted to welcome back to Iowa Mary Beth Shaffer, a nationally acclaimed teacher and former IMTA member who currently resides in Colorado. Many of you may be acquainted with Mary Beth and will not want to miss her sessions on "Etude Gems of the Intermediate Piano Repertoire" and "Practicing With a Purpose."

The conference will also include practical sessions on memory, recording techniques, new technology, vocal repertoire and a panel discussion that focuses on adjudication for both new and veteran judges. A preliminary listing of events and a registration form are attached.

I hope to see you in Sioux City in June.

Best wishes,

Dr. James March, NCTM 2009 Conference Coordinator march@morningside.edu

2008 SDMTA CONFERENCE REVIEW

The 2008 SDMTA Conference was held at South Dakota State University, November 6-8, and was generally felt to be a well-organized and valuable experience for all.

A full schedule of competitions kept the visiting judges busy in the Performing Arts Center and Lincoln Music Hall. The number of competitors was increased this year. The conference was kicked off with a student multi-piano concert, Roland Piano Jam, presented by the Brookings Music Teachers. SDSU students provided much-needed van shuttle service between venues, courtesy of the SDSU music department.

Guest artists and educators were Patrice Michaels, a soprano Mozart specialist from Appleton, Wisconsin, Ken Smith, vocal coach from Chicago area, and Melody Bober, composer and piano teacher who is published through FJH Music Company. Michaels and Smith presented a combination recital of arias, songs, and piano solos, under the combined auspices of SDMTA and the Brookings Chamber Music Society. They also gave vocal and piano master classes, and did yeoman's service as competition judges. Melody Bober presented two educational workshops plus and Alfred new music showcase. She also proved to be a helpful and outstanding judge.

The IMTF (Independent Music Teachers Forum) luncheon presented by Trish Hanson featured a teacher questionnaire and discussion of teaching ideas. Lunch was provided courtesy of the Brookings MTA. Friday was a full day of professional development workshops, followed by the general membership meeting, conference banquet in the Fishback Studio Theatre, and guest artist recital in the evening. John and Mary Walker provided some piano-four-hands entertainment for the catered meal. Saturday events consisted of non-stop competitions for piano and voice.

The conference concluded with a tasty salad buffet at the State Agricultural Museum on the SDSU campus. Fiddle and guitar entertainment was provided by the Brookings MTA and the Ag Museum. A good time was had by all.

John Walker, 2008 Conference Site Chair

S D Symphony Season 2009-2010: The Piano Grand

Pianists galore playing compositions by beloved and new composers including Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Daugherty, Beethoven and Rodrigo form the meat of the South Dakota Symphony programs for 2009-2010. The pianists include students who grew up here and studied with our members: Angelina Gadeliya, Zarina Stepanova and Paul Sanchez. Major recording pianists Emanuele Arciuli, Alessio Bax and Adam Golka will also be performing.

In addition to inviting these artists to perform the SDSO will also be presenting master classes by several of the

artists. Details are promised for our fall newsletter. As plans evolve they will also be available on the SDSO website: www.sdsymphony.org.

If you weren't a season subscriber in 2008-2009 the South Dakota Symphony has a special deal for you (or for your students and their families). You can buy a season subscription for 50% off! Contact the symphony at the above website or at 866-681-7376 (in Sioux Falls 335-7933) for further information about the available plans. And for your students enrolled in elementary, middle and high school or in a college or university with valid ID tickets to the SD Symphony are always \$10.00.

Spread the word so you and your students can hear some of the best pianists in the field today right here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota!

Anna Vorhes, Program Annotator for the SDSO

Dakota Sky International Piano Festival

Mark your calendars now for a very exciting new piano venture called *Dakota Sky International Piano Festival*. Sioux Falls native Paul Tuntland Sanchez has assembled notable young pianists from around the world for this two-week event. There will be five solo piano recitals, two spotlight programs, a series of free lectures, master classes, and children's concerts. The 2009 festival will be held **Thursday, July 23 through Thursday, August 6** at the Belbas Theatre in the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science in downtown Sioux Falls. This is the third annual festival and it truly is one that holds the promise of international renown.

Please check the website www.dakotasky.org for details. Paul is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls. His musical training here included studies with Ms. Diana Margeson, and Dr. Rick Andrews, at Augustana College. Paul graduated summa cum laude from Texas Christian University in 2005, with honors, from the studio of Tamás Ungár. He received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2005 and earned his Master of Spanish Music degree with Ms. Alicia de Larrocha at the Academia Granados-Marshall in Barcelona, Spain, in 2007. He is currently pursuing his Master of Music degree with Dr. Douglas Humpherys at the Eastman School of Music. Paul first conceived of the idea to bring up and coming young pianists to his hometown when he was just a sophomore at TCU. His energy and personal charisma brought the project into being and now it is gaining momentum through local sponsors and audiences. Part of his intent is to make the ticket prices reasonable and the contact personal for the concert artists and their audiences. SDMTA members Dr. John Walker, Cheryl Koch and Debra Reid are members of the Board of Directors. The Sioux Falls Area Music Teachers Association has signed on as one of the sponsors. *Please come and bring your students!*

Cheryl Koch, Board of Directors